

vention, would probably have put an end to "Blue Serge," as she designated him in her own mind.

The crisis being passed, Sally, all things considered, thinks it well to let herself quietly out of the front door, and later is overtaken by "Blue Serge," and thinking she has him in her power, carries the war into his camp with bravado, and is naturally more than disconcerted when he hands her his card, bearing the name and address of the owner of the house. Mr. Walter Arden Savage was, in fact, burgling his own house, with a view to defrauding the insurance company.

His sister, Mrs. Standish, who was in the scheme, received the condolences of her friends with skill (with a pensive sigh), "though there were priceless things not to be duplicated, inexpressibly endeared to one through association, she wouldn't deny (more brightly) it would be rather a lark to get all that money and go shopping to replenish her treasures from the most famous jewellers of the three capitals."

Under the circumstances, they couldn't afford to quarrel with Sally's share in the transaction, and she fell on her feet. But for this dereliction, she is quite a nice good girl. The story is very American, brightly written and full of amusement and adventure. Certainly the exciting element is not lacking.

H. H.

OF ENGLAND.

HER NEW ARMY.

There's something mellow than the moon
Shines through the apple trees,
Flickers in village and in town,
Is ambient on the ivory Down,
More buoyant than the breeze.

A hundred thousand English ghosts,
The Dead who died in fight,
(Recruited now for Michael's Hosts)
Stand sentry over English coasts,
Walk English lanes to-night.

They breast the immemorial hill,
They hear the whinnying mares.
"O, who goes there?—for well or ill?"
They answer, "Friends, and fighting still
Your battles otherwheres."

From "Who Goes There?"

By the Author of "Aunt Sarah and the War."

COMING EVENTS.

May 13th.—Irish Nurses' Association. Meeting of Executive Committee, 34, St. Stephen's Green. 8 p.m.

May 16th.—Nurses' Missionary League. Fourteenth Annual Conference and Meeting. University Hall (Dr. Williams' Library). 10—12.30, 2.30—5, 7—9.30 p.m.

May 17th.—Asylum Workers' Association: Annual Meeting, Medical Society's Rooms, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W. Sir John Jardine, Bart., K.C.I.E., M.P., in the chair. 3 p.m.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not in ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.

"GOVERNMENT BY CONSENT."

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—In your excellent article of last week's issue, headed "Government by Consent," you go to the heart of the mischief of the Nursing College, Limited.

It is a menace to that professional freedom, and self-government for which the State Registration Society for so many years has striven, toiled and waited. We have asked for bread and are offered a stone. In common with, I am sure, hundreds of other nurses, I feel that the method by which this scheme has been thrust upon the nursing profession is very unfair. Its proposals, to take only two—the exclusion of privileged training schools and the inclusion of untrained women—should at once place it outside the pale of the consideration of certificated nurses. The chaotic condition of which Mr. Stanley speaks will be magnified tenfold, for it will be difficult for the poor, ill-used public to understand whether the membership refers to a trained nurse, a V.A.D., a health visitor, or a hospital almoner. That a body of laymen should set themselves up to govern the nursing profession presents no difficulty to my mind. The average man can never be brought to perceive that there is any single subject on which he is not competent to legislate for women.

The *incomprehensible* thing is that Matrons, holding high positions, who, united, could have rendered such invaluable service to the only possible sound basis, namely, Legal Status, should have consented to be nominated by laymen on to the Council of a limited company, the constitution of which substitutes a useless voluntary system of registration for a State system.

This scheme may serve for the coercion of the unfortunate probationer, who, before she finds her stride in the nursing world, will be in the grip of a circle of powerful employers, and who will be made to understand that only this way promotion lies.

But there are thousands of independent, intelligent women of our profession to be reckoned with. In your article, you ask courageous nurses to support our cause. Alas that so many are so poor-spirited! There would otherwise be little need for the courage of the few, for we should then be showing a united front to demand that which every self-respecting nurse should desire—self-government. I, for one, flatly decline to be governed by a limited company, whose nominated Council can re-nominate themselves for election so long as they live. I feel most strongly on this point.

Yours truly,

New Southgate.

HENRIETTA HAWKINS.

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